

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:GTWOHIE:WES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL VLADIVOSTOK IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 294

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SEOUL TOKYO FROM SECSTATE NOV 22

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TOSEC 294

FOR SONNENFELDT

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO BELGRADE, BERLIN, USBERLIN,
BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST, MUNICH, LENINGRAD, PRAGUE, SOFIA, WARSAW,
NOV 21, FROM MOSCOW RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 17612

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV SEEMS FIT AT DEPARTURE FOR VLADIVOSTOK

1. BREZHNEV APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND EXCELLENT
SPIRITS AND DOMINATED LEADERSHIP HUDDLE BEFORE DEPARTING
FROM VNUKOVO II AT 2300 HOURS, NOVEMBER 20, FOR
VLADIVOSTOK. ALL MOSCOW-BASED LEADERS, MINUS KULAKOV
WHO DEPARTED EARLIER FOR PRAGUE, WERE ASSEMBLED IN
VNUKOV TERMINAL BEFORE BREZHNEV'S ARRIVAL. ALL
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APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS EXCEPT FOR

DOLGIKH WHO HAS A HEAD COLD.

2. PRODGORNY WAS THE OUTSTANDING FIGURE BEFORE BREZHNEV'S ARRIVAL, AND BREZHNEV STRODE UP TO HIM AND GREETED HIM WARMLY. HOWEVER, KISSNG SEEMED TO BE OUT OF ORDER DURING THE FLU SEASON UNLIKE MANY OF BREZHNEV'S PREVIOUS MEETINGS. BREZHNEV, POLITBURO MEMBERS, AND OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE FRIENDLY AND GRACIOUS TO DCM AND AMERICAN EMBOFFS, BUT BREZHNEV LIMITED HIMSELF ONLY TO PLEASANT GENERALITIES ON THE TRIP.

3. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING DEPARTURE WAS V.S. PAPUTIN WHOM WE BELIEVE WAS ATTIRED IN NEW MVD UNIFORM AND WARING INSIGNIA OF MAJOR GENERAL. HIS CHIEF, MVD MINISTER N.A. SHCHELOKOV WORE MUFTI.

4. WEATHER WAS RAINY AND FOGGY AND VISIBILITY POOR, BUT BREZHNEV'S PLANE DEPARTED ON SCHEDULE. HIS IL-62 WAS IN IMMACULATE CONDITION AND UNUSUALLY ATTRACTIVE STEWARDESS IN PURPLE UNIFORM GREETED HIM AT TOP STEP OF RAMP. SHELEPIN REMARKED IN OUR HEARING THAT PLANE WOULD LAND AT 0600 MOSCOW TIME OR 1300 VLADIVOSTOK TIME. MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED US TODAY THAT BAD WEATHER FORCED A LANDING AT KHABAROVSK AND PARTY WILL OVERNIGHT THERE BEFORE PROCEEDING. MATLOCK UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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